

***Chiloscyllium punctatum* Müller & Henle 1838**
Brownbanded Bambooshark



Photo of specimen with unusual throat swelling by D. Leazenby

Identification: Juveniles exhibit alternating brown/white or black/white banding. White bands become brown with maturity. Body shape is long and slender. Adults are light brown to greyish brown with no prominent color patterns. Dorsal fins larger than pelvic fins. Pectoral and pelvic fins forward of dorsal fin. Grows to about 120 cm TL. From Compagno and Niem (1998) and Allen et al. (2003).

Similar Species: Nurse Shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) exhibits a wider head, heavier body, and uniform grey to brown coloration. Juvenile nurse sharks do not have color banding on the body.

Native Range: The Brownbanded Bambooshark is distributed in the Indo-Asian Pacific from Madagascar and India to Indonesia and Philippines, north to southern Japan. From Allen et al. (2003).

Ecology: The Brownbanded Bambooshark inhabits near-shore coral reefs and tide pools. In Australia, the species prefers seagrass habitat, which could be a function of habitat partitioning with other near-shore sharks (White and Potter 2004). The diet likely consists of invertebrates and small fish (Last and Stevens 1994). The species is small and adapts well to captivity. It can also withstand a wide range of environmental conditions. Breeding programs in Australia and Germany have been successful (Harahush et al. 2007). Bamboosharks are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are classified as 'Near Threatened' globally. In Australia, the bambooshark is classified as 'Least Concern' (Cavanagh et al. 2003). The species lays brown rectangular eggs attached to coral and rocky substrates by small and delicate tendrils (Harahush et al. 2007).

Nonindigenous Occurrences: The species was observed in 2007 in Riviera Beach.

